

CRS

Stafford - 903 Cranberry Circle - Fort Mill, SC 29715 - (803) 547-5273 - gmsny34@aol.com

244030

May 7, 2013

2013-59-E

0051313

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Clerks Office
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: Proposed Duke Energy Request for Rate Hike, Effective September, 18th, 2013

Gentlemen:

Thank you for the information on Duke Energy's proposed rate hike, effective September 18th, 2013. I am appalled that Duke Energy has placed the highest percentage of rate increase of 16.3% on the residential class. Obviously, those who moved to the great State of South Carolina in their retirement years to enjoy this state's Homestead Act, are not happy with this additional proposed increase. It exceeds the cost of living increase for this past year, as have other previous increases. Even AARP has come against such action as unjust and devastating to the senior residents.

Each of the reasons for Duke Energy's increases has been noticed. However, all well managed energy companies budget for eventual upgrade or replacement of plants and equipment. It is a part of each yearly budget and is planned for well in advance. Funds are set aside each year to fund future projects and phase out old plants and equipment. By Duke's request for proposed rate increases, we are led to believe this major company does not have sufficient funds to fund their budget.... Bad business! Where is the leadership? Also, they have a \$7,000,000 loan to the Democratic Party Convention in 2012, which will probably not be repaid by the DNC, as they don't have the funds to repay it. Should the debt be added to Duke Energy customers by another rate hike?

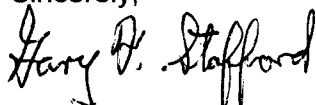
Yes, tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes and floods can disrupt a company's budget, but to have Duke Energy give their reasons for increase, outside their previous well planned budget of:

- (6) General Capital Maintenance projects for existing plants (not specified)
- (7) Other general plant projects (not specified) (no details).

I only hope there is a detailed report on the other (5) projects which should have been planned and a part of previous projects. It should be noted that Duke Energy could not have foreseen the costs incurred in the high energy line break, due to a tornado, at the Oconee Nuclear Station, and for this and this alone, there should be a modest "cross the board" increase only!

Duke Energy is one of the top seven energy companies in the United States, since their merger with Progress Energy. The share holders of this company see its stock as the highest it has been in a decade. How then, can such a profitable company make such unnecessary and unreasonable demands on its customers, both residential and commercial? It's wrong and I sincerely hope that the Public Service Commission of South Carolina takes a righteous stand, and refuses said increase. It is with personal interest that I wait on the leadership of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina!

Sincerely,



Gary B. Stafford

903 Cranberry Cir
Fort Mill, SC 29715